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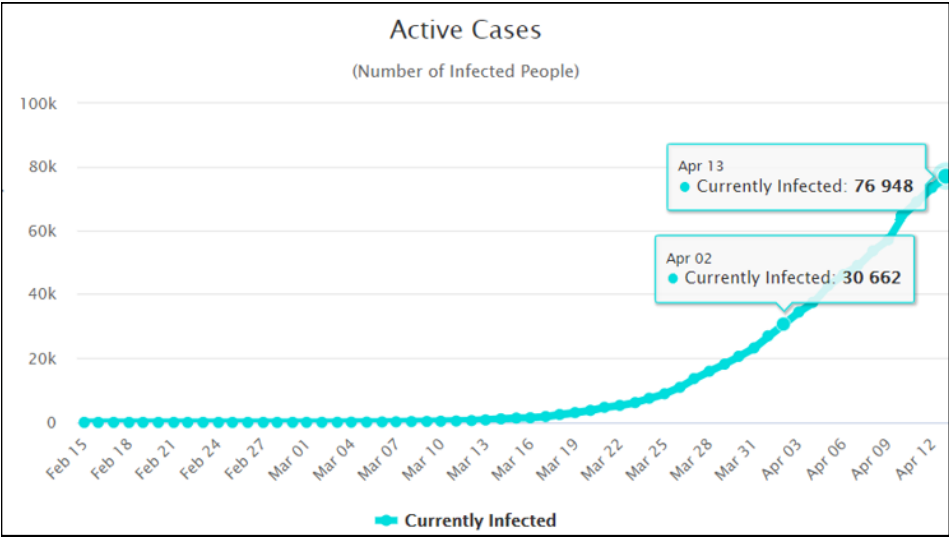
Fake News Spreading Like COVID-19

The Dangers of Coronavirus Conspiracy Theories

William Kemp
Editor-in-Chief

As if things weren't bad enough as is, imagine not having any internet because of a couple blockheads believing fake news. Coronavirus conspirators managed to spread a believable enough tall tale that there have been over 100 arson and harassment related incidents against wireless towers across Britain. Seeming to grow at the same rate of the coronavirus, the first tower went up in flames on April 2nd in Birmingham followed by three more the next day. By now, its more than obvious that the spread of COVID-19 and fake news is due to how dense the population is, and how dense the population is.

As most things do these days, the 5G Coronavirus conspiracy theory



Active Cases in the United Kingdom increasing by 250% from the first wireless tower arson attack

Image Courtesy of worldometer

originated on twitter. The first post is hard to locate but it's branches can be seen everywhere. Many of these "theories" start by saying the virus was spread quietly before the release of 5G and was only activated when someone was exposed to a 5G signal. Another says that there

is no COVID-19 and 5G wireless is the only cause for those affected. Unfortunately, after burning more than 30 5G towers across Britain, the number of infected people has more than doubled. The spread of this misinformation isn't necessarily due to these internet trolls most

of the time through. We have celebrities with tens of thousands of followers are to thank for conspiracy theory exposure. Woody Harrelson from Zombieland, singer M.I.A., and rapper Paper Planes have all shared some sort of the 5G conspiracy theory which have reached a combined total of over 2 million people. It's still the people who choose to believe this nonsense that makes me lose faith in humanity though.

Spreading misinformation is a dangerous thing, not because it directly attacks anyone (most of the time) but because there are people out there whose brains are programmed to accept everything that's thrown at them. Think before your post, and remember if you don't have supporting official research, it's just another opinion.

Folding@Home

How You Can Help Cure COVID-19

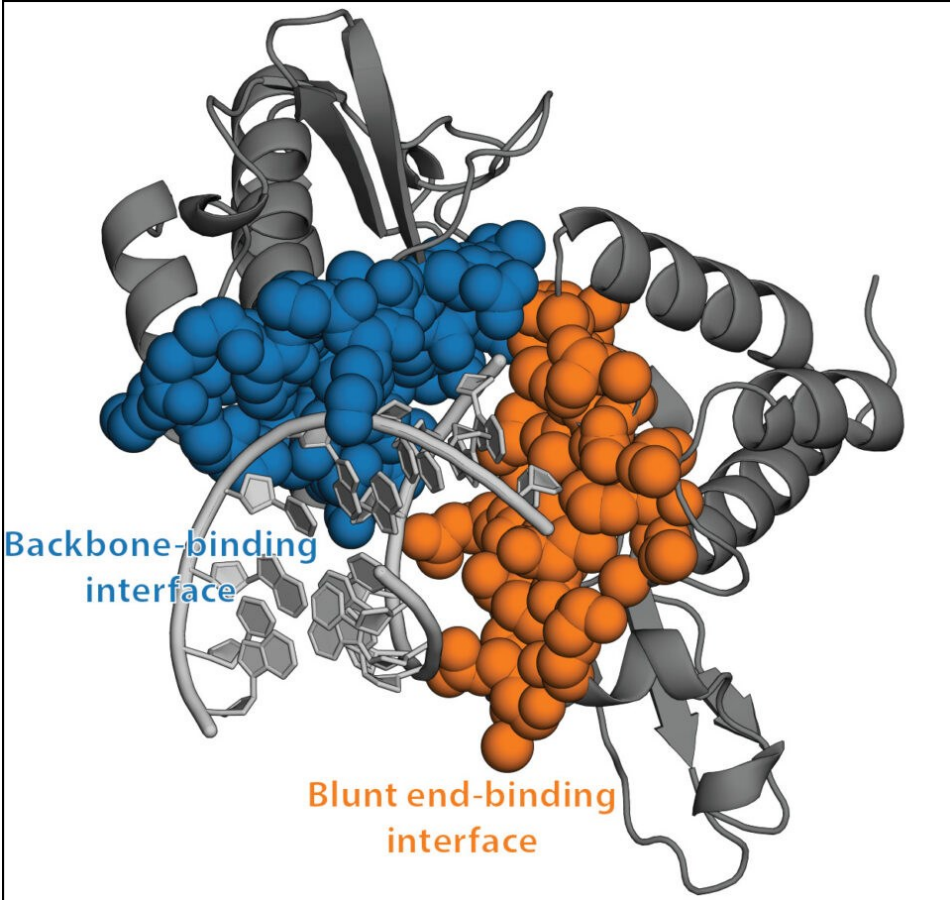
Aidan Moulder
Entertainment Editor

If you're not familiar with Folding@Home, it's a program that you can download onto just about any computer that will run protein-folding simulations to help with finding cures for diseases like cancer, ALS, Parkinson's, Huntington's, and Influenza. In essence, it turns your computer into just one of many parts of a huge network capable of 1,500,000,000,000,000,000 floating point operations per second (1.5 exaFLOPS). In other words, this network forms a supercomputer more powerful than any actual supercomputer on the planet. Now, this program and the network attached to it are being used to help researchers find a cure, or at least effective treatment, for COVID-19.

There are two primary ways that someone can contribute to Folding@Home. The first is the most straightforward, as it just involves visiting foldingathome.org and downloading the software from the link on the website. F@H is designed to run in the background

while you use your computer, so it won't get in the way of your daily activities, and shouldn't interrupt any of your important schoolwork. The second way to contribute is by building a server that both distributes jobs to computers around the world as well as stores the results from those jobs. This is much more complicated than just downloading software and running it and forgetting about it, but let me explain why it's just as important as running the software.

The way that Folding@Home works is the researchers in charge of the project create jobs—individual folding assignments for a single computer to crunch numbers on—and distribute them to servers around the world. During normal operations (i.e. prior to the COVID-19 pandemic), various servers around the world had hundreds or even thousands of jobs in a queue. Client computers would contact the server, run the simulation, and send the results back to the server for storage. The project's researchers then take this data off the server (freeing up room for more results to be



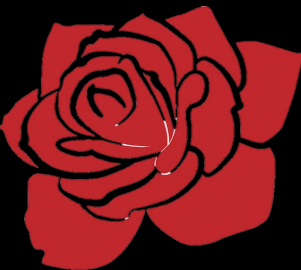
An experimental structure of an EBOLA protein, which F@H had modelled and discovered a way to directly affect it with drugs. They hope to do the same to SARS-CoV-2

Image Courtesy of foldingathome.org

dropped off) and process the data.

Over the course of about twenty years, the process above has led to dozens of peer-reviewed papers about advancements in the protein-folding process, most of which are

way above my basic level of understanding. However, that shouldn't stop anybody from downloading F@H and contributing to the fight against COVID-19!



Page 2: **Crafts to Do at Home**
Page 3: **Online Classes**
Page 4: **Flipside**

You decide what's newsworthy.



Revisiting Skyrim

My Review of SSE Since Playing in Middle School

William Kemp
Editor-in-Chief

The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim is not a new game period. It's been around since November 2011, yet somehow, it's still one of the most popular RPG games out there. I remember playing it before the Dragonborn, Hearthfire, and Dawnguard add-ons were included in the game. Out of everything that's changed, I'm definitely still sacrificing the same amount of sleep per night to play this game.

Playing today, there are differences immediately notice when compared to 2012, and not just with the game style. I was always envious watching my dad play when I was in middle school because he would be level 50 or so and

have more than 100,000 gold, and I'd be level 70+ with maybe 10,000. I also never branched out my player type, sticking to a very basic one-handed, archery build. Now,



The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim Cover
Photo Courtesy of Steemit

I've gone through the basic build making better decisions, a mage build (my favorite so far), and a sneak/thief build. Mods have also been a very fun experience, specifi-

cally the Inigo follower mod.

Inigo is an extraordinarily in-depth follower who can tell you his whole life backstory, has his own questline, will

value to the game, but Inigo changes the entire atmosphere. If you play Skyrim and you don't have Inigo, I definitely recommend giving the mod a try.

I also wanted to get back into Skyrim after hearing updates about the Elder Scrolls VI. Apparently, Bethesda wants to release the sixth edition of the Elder Scrolls during the Xbox Series X and PS5 lifespan. Unfortunately, that means 2021 at the earliest, but probably closer to 2025. Whatever the date may be, I can only hope to have more time on my hands in 5 years than I do now because I probably won't sleep for at least three days after the games release.

tell you what he thinks of you and any thoughts he has, and will even sing to you if asked. Most follower mods aren't anything too special and don't add a noticeable amount of

Valorant Review

Riot is making another game, and it is GOOD

Aidan Moulder
Entertainment Editor

If you frequent Twitch, you no doubt have seen that most of the world's top streamers are playing a beta version of Valorant, an upcoming free-to-play first person shooter being developed by Riot Games, the developer of the insanely popular League of Legends. A lucky few stream goers have acquired access to the game's beta, and I'm happy to report that I'm one of them.

The easiest way to describe Valorant is a hybrid of Valve's Counter-Strike: Global Offensive and Blizzard's Overwatch. It draws its shooter mechanics from CS:GO, but it simultaneously implements a character-based ability system like that of Overwatch. Each of the 10 agents, as they're called, has a variety of abilities that cater to different playstyles and reward good judgement and good strategy. Some characters have powers tailored for direct confrontation, while others are designed to get intelligence for the team without being spotted themselves. However, any agent can be effective in any situation for a number of reasons.

Overall, the game's design direction favors performance

and stability over outright good looks and flashy effects, which isn't entirely unexpected for a game clearly meant to compete with popular eSports shooters like Counter-Strike and Overwatch, but the game still has an interesting design with a sort of futuristic vibe, and the game's artwork is clearly similar to League of Legends, the developer's other popular title. Detail is added where it's needed, but it isn't left out where it's not needed. Basically, the characters, interactive items, and important map elements are highly detailed, very colorful, and overall pleasing to the eye, but less important parts of the world (with the exception of a few trees on one of the game's three maps) are still kept to a decent standard and aren't so ugly that they distract you from the match at hand.

As a long-time Counter-Strike player, I feel right at home with the game's basic shooting mechanics. Each weapon feels powerful, and they don't have the same problems that their CS:GO counterparts have and the game doesn't feel partial towards using any particular weapon. However, my inexperience with Overwatch does not work in my favor. I'm not good about using abilities, and I instead de-

fault to trying to outshoot the opposing team. Since the ability system doesn't work the same way as CS:GO's utility system, with smoke grenades and flashbangs and the like, but instead uses character specific abilities, I have to learn how to play characters individually, which hurts my performance in matches because I am so used to just knowing how to handle a situation. However, having specific skills opens up a lot of room for creativity in how they're used.

While I think that the game's weapons are well-balanced, especially for a beta test, I can say for certain that the agents are nearly the complete opposite. It feels like, regardless of a player's skill with a given character, they almost always win anything from one-on-one gunfights to entire matches easily. That's because some abilities are simply too overpowered, especially comparing them to similar abilities used by different agents. For example, Phoenix and Breach are two agents that both have abilities which blind the opposing team, but Breach's variant is nearly infinitely better than Phoenix's. Phoenix can throw a flash around a corner, and it blinds enemies for a second or two before ending. Breach can throw his straight through walls, and



Valorant Cover
Photo Courtesy of the Verge

I'm pretty sure that it lasts at least an entire second longer than Phoenix's. There are a few other highly annoying aspects of some of the rest of the game's agents, especially Raze, but I won't get into that because I could probably write a book about it.

Despite these apparent shortcomings, I have to give Valorant a lot of credit for being as stable and enjoyable as it is, especially considering the game has only been in beta for just over a week. I can definitely foresee a future in which I play this game in place of CS:GO, and I have a feeling that it's going to break the battle royale trend of the past few years, and that it will surge to the top of eSports popularity and be nearly as ubiquitous of a phenomenon as Fortnite has been for the past few years.



Joe Exotic: King or Dunce?

A Netflix Documentary Review

Matthew Supp
Flipside Editor

Over the past week or so, I have seen a lot of buzz surrounding the Netflix docu-series Tiger King come across my twitter timeline. Being the great reporter I am, I decided to give it a shot. So this past weekend, I sat down with my dad and watched the first four episodes. Here is my review up and to this point. What the hell?

I had heard the name Joe Exotic before, but only ever in short posts on Instagram, or a brief news headline that popped up on my phone. I knew that big cat and exotic animal trades were illegal and I knew that most of those animals were endangered. What I never expected was the depth of that world: the exotic animal world.

This show, if not obvious by the title, is about a man named Joe “Tiger King” Exotic, who bought, sold, and bred exotic animals and big



Joe Exotic, the Tiger King
Image courtesy of thedailybeast.com

cats, especially tigers, at his facility, called the GW Zoo in Greater Wynnewood, Oklahoma. Fairly early in the first episode, the makers of the show introduce Joe’s sworn nemesis, Carole Baskin.

Carole is the owner of Big Cat Rescue in , and claims to be a protector of big cats. For years, Joe and Carole went back and forth at each other,

using money, extortion, threats, suspected arson, and suspected foul play, all trying to get the other park to shut down. Carole, claiming self righteousness, and Joe, claiming she is full of bologna.

I’m only four episodes in but let me tell ya, this whole situation is messed up. Netflix does an incredible job of sucking you into and keeping you watching their show. I’m not going to go into too much detail, but they have so far created an intriguing narrative that lets the viewer decide the protagonists and antagonists. There has been a decent amount of backlash however, from animal rights activists groups, saying that Netflix failed to cover the real issues: cub petting, cub trading, and animal abuse, among other things. While the show does make for very good dramatic television, I have to agree with them. It swings and misses at tackling the real issues that are still harming endangered species across the country.

Why (Some) People Aren’t Social Distancing

Dara Nafiu
Staff Writer

COVID-19, a novel strain of the coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China, has claimed over 133,000 lives worldwide. Though the respiratory infection is spread via bodily fluids, it can exist outside of the body for upwards of 14 days. Why, then, are many Americans not taking this pandemic seriously? In particular, why is this lackluster perspective especially common among older generations, especially when they stand to benefit the most from social distancing and lose the most from the lack thereof? As the discussion below will demonstrate, the spread of misinformation during a pandemic can be just as dangerous as the contagion itself. These misinterpretations lead certain members of the public to disregard crucial scientific advice.

Michigan residents staged an automobile rally on April 15th, dubbed “Operation Gridlock,” in which demonstrators paraded around the capitol building in their cars to protest Governor Whitmer’s stay-at-home order. Despite the event organizers’ instructions to remain in their vehicles, protesters soon gathered on the front steps of the building. Organized by the Michigan Conservative Coalition and armed with semi-automatic rifles, the crowd chanted, “Lock her up! Lock her up!” from Whitmer’s doorstep. The protesters believed that the governor’s order infringes on their fundamental rights. While this assertion may seem valid on

the surface, it does not hold up when you consider the potential harm to others. In other words, the universal right to autonomy does not include the right to threaten public health. This is what makes the vaccination debate so contentious—why should the “anti-vax” parents’ right to choose override the public’s right to life (especially those relying on herd immunity)? In a similar way, failing to self-isolate or leaving the house for non-essential reasons places the whole population at risk.

Therefore, when considering the “greater good,” social distancing appears to be the moral duty of every citizen. Why, then, are so many Americans, primarily Conservatives as the national protests indicate, resisting these measures? The answer lies in the aforementioned spread of misleading information by the media. Fox News, an established news broadcaster with a demonstrably Conservative audience, has aired several segments this week claiming that physicians are “angry with the CDC” for publishing misleading COVID-19 data meant to inflate health concerns and incite general fear. More specifically, the correspondents suggested that the American public should be furious that the actual death and infection rates are not as high as those projected by the CDC at the onset of the pandemic. This rhetoric is as misguided as it is predictable—as soon as comprehensive preventative measures start to curb the spread of a disease, skeptics inevitably claim that those measures were never necessary.

They falsely take the flattening of the curve as evidence that things were never as bad as they were made out to be. With such misleading propaganda, it is understandable that many of their viewers may attribute the spread of the virus to chance, providence, or even conspiracy, rather than proven epidemiological measures.



A reminder to practice social distancing

Image courtesy of the Economic Times

Some coronavirus apathetics contend that the virus is not as bad as influenza, which resulted in over 34,000 deaths in the U.S. during the 2018-2019 flu season. They argue that the sweeping response to an affliction with a comparatively lower mortality rate is ludicrous. This argument falls flat for at least three reasons. First, there is a known influenza vaccine, while a COVID-19 vaccine could take months to develop and mass produce. Second, this argument falsely assumes that the pandemic has peaked—that the current death

toll is as bad as it is going to get. However, it has been almost four months and these numbers are still rising each day. Third, the 9-11 attacks claimed the lives of “only” 3000 Americans—far less than the flu—but triggered a comprehensive overhaul of national security and an extensive military campaign in the Middle East. Few would argue

that these counter-terrorism measures were pointless simply because the casualties were not as high. Americans need to treat the coronavirus with the same rigor and awareness as any other national threat.

Largely because of misinformation that is as intentional as it is widespread, several Americans are resisting government-imposed social distancing rules. We must completely restructure this disingenuous narrative if we are to be prepared when the next pandemic inevitably strikes.

WACKY PROF QUOTES

“The only comment that is appropriate for this is, ‘bovine poop’ ”
-Dr. Grigg

“We don’t want another holocaust because of Determinants”
- Dr. Tarrant

“Your facial expressions remind me of zombies trying to get me”
-Dr. Eicholz

“If this thing generates too much heat, we have to talk to a mechanical engineer to deal with it. Lets avoid that at all costs.”
- Dr. Herniter

“It was an ass-ton of logic. That’s the technical term.”
- Dr. Sid Stamm

“If a man talks in the woods, and no woman is around to hear it, is he still wrong?”
- Dr. Igor Minevich

“People come up to me and say, ‘Rose Hulman, never heard of it’. Why would they indicate to me they’re a moron”
Dr. Wollowski

Did your prof say something hilarious or just great out of context? Did you hear something confusing or funny on your jaunt about the fine halls of this institution? We want to hear about it! Send your quotes with who said it to suppmg@rose-hulman.edu or fill out this nifty google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/bB339sx6GHohggYt1>

WE ARE THE VIRUS: Nature returns to cities across Europe

Mo R. Bidde

With the number of cases of the CoronaVirus Pandemic still increasing, governments around the globe are urging their people to stay the fuck home. The ‘stay-the-fuck-at-home’ campaign has become international, with athletes around the world providing thoughts and prayers.

As of now, South Dakota remains the only state/province/country to remain open. It’s governor telling the media that “...no one who lives here wants to leave and no one who isn’t here wants to come in...” and that she believes her state could be grounds for a “...clinical trial the likes of which have never been seen...”. Whether or not the second part is true remains to be seen, however, she is right in presuming no one wants to go to South Dakota.

Across the Atlantic Pond, the brits were told by their immortal queen that they must remain vigilant and patient. I reached out to a colleague in London and asked how the major city is dealing with such a disease. He told me that it is quite bitter sweet: you walk outside to a desolate neighborhood, yet nature is reclaiming and rebounding due to the desolation.


He excitingly called me yesterday, after sending me the picture below, to explain what was happening:

“Since so many people are staying the fuck at home, we have finally been able to see wild tea-bags come out of their hibernation in the soil and back into nature...It really is beautiful”



TOP TEN

New Hobbies to Learn Whilst in Quarantine

1. How to burn down 5G internet towers
2. How to clean your room
3. Social Interaction, 5 6 feet apart cause we’re not gay
4. Learning to love yourself
5. Learning to communicate with the voices in your head
6. Finally figuring out how to use the My.Rose-Hulman page
7. How to write an article for the Thorn
8. How to cook things other than cereal for breakfast
9. How to cook things other than EasyMac for lunch
10. How to commit tax fraud in four different states
11. Raising baby tigers
12. How to adequately wash your hands
13. Don’t hug me I’m scared
14. 
15. Hoarding toilet paper
16. How to make your own toilet paper
17. How to use your pets as reusable toilet paper
18. How to create masks using bandanas
19. How to accidentally join a gang by wearing a bandana

Joke of the Week:

Why does the Tony the Tiger love Frosted Flakes so much?

Because it is covered in Sardine Oil.

London is not the only English city to see this trend, and England is not the only country to see this trend either. In Venice, Italy, citizens are able to see their sad, ugly reflections in the water of the canals thanks to low pollution. In Germany, the low foot traffic through the mountain hiking trails have allowed beer trees to repopulate the forests.

I asked my French friend Jacque what the situation is like in Paris, the country’s pride and joy. He assured me that nothing out of the ordinary was going on, well, almost. Jacque told me that a few nights ago while everyone was asleep, there was a loud rumbling throughout the city, like an earthquake. He said he quickly jumped out of bed wearing only his beret and ran to the window. He was able to snap a quick shot of what he saw, but beware, it is quite a low quality picture.

It appears that in the absence of humans, the presence of the tower’s engineer, Gustave Eiffel, took over the famous building. As you can see from the clearly untailored picture to the left, Gustave took his dog for a stroll and a baguette before returning to his place.

It is unclear whether phenomena like these are happening in other continents. All we can do is hope that once this whole shit show is over, mankind is able to peacefully live with the nature that has reclaimed itself. But probably we’ll just exploit it for resources as always. Either way, I urge my readers to Stay The Fuck at Home.

